

## Feather River RD Abandoned Mine Closures – 2021

### Project Purpose:

These abandoned mines currently pose a safety and health risk to the public. There are open shafts and open adits, surrounded by unstable rock and possibly trash at some sites. Within the underground workings, unstable rock, rotting timbers, rusting metal, bad air, low oxygen levels, deep water, and other unknown hazards may exist. Bat habitat may also be present in the mines. The purpose of this project is to improve the health, safety and resource condition of the site.

The initiation of this project meets the national interagency (BLM/FS) efforts to reclaim abandoned mine lands sites to minimize the environmental, human health, and safety hazards at abandoned mines, while preserving the historic and wildlife habitat resources that they provide.

### Project Locations:

Site Name	Location (Lat/Long)	Shafts (#s)	Adits (#s)	Structures (#s)	Road (Length, miles)	Proposed closure method	Other site cleanup
Geraldine	T19N, R6E, Sec 3 -121.286217W 39.5317N	1	2		.25	Bat gates or cave in	
Sucker Run	T20S, R6E Sec 26 -121.264611W 39.562944N -121.267389W 39.562444N		2?			Bat gates	
UK Tree adits	T22N, R10E, Sec 30 -120.900383W 39.743950N -120.901917W 39.741800N	1? May be a cave-in from an adit	2			Bat gates or cave in	
Pearson Mine	T22N, R10E, Sec 32 -120.888722W 39.725500N	3	2		.5	Bat gates or cave in	Small amount of trash

### Description of Proposed Action:

The proposed action includes closing the abandoned mine openings and removal of any modern trash on the sites. Items identified as historical will not be disturbed. Brush and logs may be cleared along the old access roads just enough to allow access by vehicles or quads. Some cross-country travel may be required.

The recommended method of closure for the adits would be to install a bat-friendly culvert gate into the portals, but final closure method will be determined in part by specialist input.

Polyurethane foam (PUF) would be used around the culvert to ensure a tight fit. The final application of PUF would include rocks and forest litter to simulate the natural surroundings.

The rock and soil would be gathered on or near the site. If on-site collection is not allowable, rock and dirt would be purchased and stockpiled at a designated site. If a culvert style gate is not acceptable, a gate could be installed inside the portal. Specialist input will help determine closure method.

The shafts would be filled in or closed with a PUF plug, as described above.

The Geraldine and Pearson sites had previous EAs for active mining, but no work was ever done. There are no currently approved Plans of Operations, but there may still be claim owners for the sites. Any claim owners will be notified of our plans to close the mines as part of scoping.